



# Wastewater News

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>



**Clean Water . . . a better environment**  
**Office of Wastewater Management**

## Working towards Clean Water

A message from the Director:

*Secretary Glickman of USDA and Administrator Browner of EPA have delivered a Clean Water Action Plan that will further the improvement of our nations waters to the betterment of the entire American populous. OWM is fully engaged in making this plan a reality with the Agenda Items, from the Clean Water Action Plan, that it has the primary lead for:*

- ♦ *Developing and implementing better controls on animal feeding operations (AFOs).*
- ♦ *Completing the regulatory development and implementation of the permitting program that protects our nation's water from pollutants in storm water, combined sewer overflows, and sanitary sewer overflows.*
- ♦ *Improving the ability of the Clean Water Act program to prevent mines from causing pollution.*
- ♦ *Optimizing the use of State Revolving Fund loans, used to further prevent polluted runoff.*

*If we can improve the quality of the nation's waters today, we are protecting and preserving the water for tomorrow.*

*Mike B. Cook, Director  
Office of Wastewater Management*

## Vice President's Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) Progress

### COAL REMINING

The CWAP provides that OSM, in cooperation with EPA and land management agencies, increase its activities to clean up rivers and streams polluted by coal mine drainage and to work with key stakeholders in this effort. As part of this effort, Permits Division staff continue to work with representatives from the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC), several States, and OSM to finalize a review draft of a "white paper" regarding ways that section 301(p) of the Clean Water Act can be implemented in a way to protect surface water quality, as well as remove perceived impediments to coal remining. The group continues to make progress in developing an approach consistent with both the CWA and the SMCRA. EPA is working with OSM to release the draft white paper for public review in early March. For more information, contact Dan Weese on (202) 260-6809.

### Substantially Reduce Pollution from Animal Feeding Operations

The Clean Water Action Plan calls for release of EPA's draft AFO Strategy which outlines steps that it will take to minimize the environmental and public health effects of AFOs. The EPA draft strategy calls for improving data collection; expanding research on effects and control measures; increasing compliance assistance and enforcement with respect to applicable environmental laws and regulations; significantly expanding the number of Clean Water Act permits issued for CAFOs (with emphasis on the largest, unpermitted facilities); ensuring that permits address such activities as land application of animal waste; revising outdated regulations; and creating incentives for voluntary implementation of measures to protect the environment and public health.

The Clean Water Action Plan also directed EPA and USDA to develop a joint, unified strategy to refocus the federal government's technical, financial, and programmatic efforts to more effectively address the environmental and public health issues associated with AFOs. A draft of the unified EPA/USDA National AFO Strategy will be available in July, 1998 and will include the following key elements, in addition to outlining the roles of involved agencies: Program and interagency cooperation; Develop and implement comprehensive management systems for AFOs; Comprehensive management systems will be incorporated into Clean Water Act discharge permits; Revising and strengthening existing permit regulations; Incentives to enhance

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environmental protection; Coordinated plan for research; Develop watershed nutrient budgets; Target activities to priority watersheds; Encourage establishment of an industry certification program.

### **Decentralized Wastewater Treatment**

The Clean Water Action Plan recently announced by President Clinton includes several initiatives to "Improve Subsurface Sewage Disposal." Key actions include: (1.) providing technical guidance on management programs, performance standards, water conservation techniques and alternative/innovative designs for onsite wastewater systems which primarily focus on residential and commercial entities; (2.) developing voluntary national standards for onsite system siting, performance, design and maintenance, and (3.) providing financial and technical support of State and local programs which provide for centralized management of onsite systems, including support of demonstration projects and providing guidance on the use of State loan funds for onsite management systems. OWM will be taking the lead in implementing these initiatives. Contact Joyce Hudson for more information, at 260-1290.

Recent OWM activities in this topic area include:

**ASAE Conference:** Steve Hogue attended the 8th National Symposium on Individual and Small Community Sewage Systems, sponsored by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers March 8-10 in Orlando, Florida. About 500 people participated, including regulators, engineers, installers and manufacturers. An EPA joint exhibit was sponsored by ORD and was heavily visited, resulting in the

distribution of over 100 copies of OWM small-community publications. A number of important papers were presented, including a proposal by ASAE for national performance standards for onsite systems. For more information, contact Steve Hogue at 260-5841.

**Alaska Conference:** Joyce Hudson will be a featured speaker at the Alaska Water and Wastewater Management Association Conference on Rural Sanitation on April 21. She will give a presentation on EPA's 1997 Response to Congress on the Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems, as well as an overview of OWM's programs of wastewater assistance to small communities. Joyce will also tour innovative onsite systems in the Anchorage area. Joyce may be reached at 260-1290 for more information.

**For more information on the Clean Water Action Plan go to the following Internet site:**

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater/action/>

### **Upcoming Training, Meetings and Conferences**

#### **National Environmental Training Center for small Communities (NETCSC) Course Offerings**

A NETCSC course on wastewater options for small communities offered March 13 in New Lexington, Ohio, drew 16 local and State officials from Ohio health and environmental departments. The course, cosponsored by the Perry County, Ohio, Department of Health and the State of Ohio, aimed

to help local decision makers deal with public health, environmental, and operation and management problems associated with their wastewater systems. Fourteen participants reported they would recommend the course to a colleague and 12 rated the course materials very good or excellent.

NETCSC will team up with the Rural Community Assistance Program to offer the course March 28-29 in Seattle.

NETCSC will offer its onsite wastewater systems operation and maintenance course March 30 -April 1 in Morrisville, N.Y., where its cosponsor will be the operator training center at the State University of New York (SUNY).

Other upcoming course offerings are NETCSC's new wastewater troubleshooting course April 25-26 in Bethesda, Md, cosponsored by the National Environmental Training Association; "Reducing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste" April 30-May 1, May 5-6, and May 7-8 in Albuquerque, cosponsored by the New Mexico Department of Environment. Two of NETCSC's courses, to be cosponsored by the National Sanitation Foundation, will be offered in or near Washington, D.C. in May. "Drinking Water Modules on Disinfection" will take place May 10, in D.C.; and the popular "Basics of Environmental Systems Management for Local Officials" in Bethesda, Md, also May 10. For more information contact Betty B. Ford of the Municipal Assistance Branch at 202-260-8510.

#### ***SRF Funding Framework Workshops Scheduled Around the Country***

Following on the success of the recent Region II/III SRF Funding Framework Workshop that attracted over 100

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participants for two days of discussion on how to make better use of the SRF for nonpoint source, estuary, and wetlands projects, the other Regions have set timeframes for conducting their own workshops.

These workshops are designed to improve usage of the vast resources of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to better address each state's water quality problems. The SRF has over \$24 billion in assets available for loans and can fund a wide variety of water quality projects, including agricultural BMPs, urban storm water runoff, wetlands and riparian zone restoration and protection, estuary projects, groundwater protection, and many others (see CW-SRF "How to Fund NPS and Estuary Enhancement Projects," EPA 909-K-97-001, July 1997).

These interactive workshops will be structured to bring water quality representatives from nonpoint source, wetlands, estuary, watersheds, groundwater, and SRF programs together to share ideas, learn about each other's programs.

Region: I  
Date: June, 1998  
Contact: Ralph Caruso  
Phone: (617) 565-3617

Region: II  
Date: February 24-25  
Contact: Bob Gill  
Phone: (212) 637-3884

Region: III  
Date: February 24-25  
Contact: Don Niehus  
Phone: (215) 566-5705

Region: IV  
Date: August 1998  
Contact: Sheryl Parsons  
Phone: (404) 562-9337

Region: V  
Date: Various locations/times  
Contact: Gene Wojcik  
Phone: (312) 886-0174

Region: VI  
Date: Late June 1998  
Contact: Velma Smith  
Phone: (214) 665-7153

Region: VII  
Date: September 1998  
Contact: Donna Moore  
Phone: (913) 551-7741

Region: VIII  
Date: September 1998\*  
Contact: Brian Friel  
Phone: (303) 312-6277

Region: IX  
Date: September 1998\*  
Contact: Juanita Licata  
Phone: (415) 744-1948

Region: X  
Date: Planning  
Contact: Dan Steinborn  
Phone: (206) 553-2728

\* may be combined

For more information, call the contact listed above or Nikos Singelis at (202) 260-5695 or check out our web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/OWM/fagen.htm>.

#### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ONSITE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Headquarters staff continue to work with staff of EPA Region IX and Pima County Community College in preparation of the Onsite Training and Technical Assistance National Meeting being held on June 8 - 11, 1998, in Tucson, Arizona. Under Section 104(g) of the Clean Water Act, this

program, through a network of operator training staff in the States, provides onsite operator training and technical assistance to small wastewater treatment plant operators (under 5 Million Gallons per Day) with compliance problems. For more information contact Gary Hudiburgh on (202) 260-4926.

#### ***Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training Courses***

The SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Foundation has developed a two day Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) training course as part of its ongoing activities under a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water (Permits Division). SETAC is currently developing a schedule of WET courses. The first scheduled courses have been scheduled through the SETAC Regional Chapters and they are listed below. The WET course will cover water quality topics such as Criteria and Standards, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and enforcement, WET testing and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), as they apply to the WET program. If you would like to request a two day training course for your State, Tribe or group or need more information about the courses or the schedule, please contact Barbara Albrecht at the SETAC Foundation at (850-469-1500), by fax (850-469-9778) or by e-mail ([barbara@setac.org](mailto:barbara@setac.org)). Alternatively, you may contact Laura Phillips (EPA) at (202-260-9522).

#### **SETAC Regional Chapters**

**Chapel Hill**  
**Dates: 4/16-17/98**  
**Location: Chapel Hill, NC**  
**Contact: Annie Weisbrod**  
**919-515-1960**

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### **Pacific NW**

**Dates:** 5/6-7/98

**Location:** Bellingham, WA

**Contact:** Tim Hall

**360-293-4748**

### **Mid South**

**Dates:** 5/14-15/98

**Location:** Oxford, MS

**Contact:** Daniel Schlenk

**601-232-5150**

### **Ohio Valley**

**Dates:** Mid June

**Location:** Cincinnati, OH

**Contact:** Jay Gooch

**513-634-1053**

### **CLEAN WATER NEEDS SURVEY (CWNS) DATABASE MODERNIZATION**

The third Joint Application Design (JAD) workshop will be held April 20-23, 1998. This session will continue to refine the designs of the second JAD workshop. There will also be a demonstration of Sewer Cost Curves, Administrative Windows, State Template Windows for Flow Data and Operations and Maintenance. After the April JAD we will begin construction of a production application of the modernized database, followed by alpha testing and installation late in the fall. For more information, contact Jim Shuster on (202) 260-5829.

### **SMALL-COMMUNITY Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) WORKSHOPS**

The CSO Partnership, a consortium of communities with CSO problems with grant funding and technical assistance from EPA, is sponsoring two-day workshops designed to help small communities understand the CSO Policy. The workshops cover a range of implementation issues and include

panel discussions and case studies. Small-community workshops have already been held in West Virginia, Maine, Indiana, and Columbus, Ohio (with approximately 90 participants at each). A workshop is planned for Pennsylvania in March. For more information, contact Ross Brennan on (202) 260-6928.

### **Sanitary Sewer Overflows**

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) is working with other EPA offices, NPDES States, and a Federal Advisory Subcommittee to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework to address Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). Technical and outreach materials are being developed, and a Regional and State National SSO Coordinator's meeting is scheduled for May 1998. For more information, contact Sharie Centilla on (202) 260-6052.

March 1-4, 1998: Water Environment Federation (WEF) Industrial Waste Technical Conference in Nashville, TN. For more information, contact WEF Conference Department 1-800-666-0206.

March 10, 1998: Region 1 Quarterly Pretreatment Coordinators Meeting, in Warwick, RI. For more information, contact Mark Spinale at (617) 565-3553.

April 13-15, 1998: Region 4 States Pretreatment Conference in Gatlinburg, TN. For more information, contact Dave Olson at (404) 562-9756.

April 15-17, 1998: Region 7 & 8 Regional Pretreatment Workshop in Colorado Springs. For more information, contact Paul Marshall in Region 7 at (913) 551-7419 or Curt McCormick at (303) 312-6377.

April 22-23, 1998: Region 3/EPA DEP/Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators' Association Cosponsored Training in Myerstown, PA. For more information contact, John Lovell at (9215) 566-5790.

May 6, 1998: New Jersey WEA: "Industry/Regulatory Partnership in a Climate of Change" in Atlantic City, NJ. For more information, contact Virginia Wong at (212) 637-4241.

May 19, 1998: Idaho WEA in Pocatello, ID. For more information, contact Sharon Wilson at (206) 553-0325.

July 1998: Region 2 Pretreatment Coordinators Meeting, New York State. For more information, contact Virginia Wong at (212) 637-4241.

### **Water Quality Standards Academy Outreach/Partnership**

The Permits Division is continuing to partner with the Standards and Applied Science Division of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) on outreach for the water quality program. Permits Division staff are revising and presenting portions of the Water Quality Standards Academy Curriculum that address implementation of water quality standards. The Permits Division will participate in a special session of the Water Quality Standards Academy for the Inspector General's office in Kansas City, MO on February 24-25. Also, the Permits Division is co-sponsoring with OST a multi-regional meeting on water quality criteria, standards, and implementation. The meeting will be held on August 24-28, 1998 in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, contact Greg Currey (202) 260-1718.



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### Pretreatment Training Course

In coordination with the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the National Pretreatment Program Staff has developed a training course to be cosponsored by WEF to provide basic information about pretreatment program development and implementation. This, along with the training videos, addresses the need for more diverse training opportunities. The first courses are on March 2-3, 1998 in Nashville, Tennessee and April 20 and 21, 1998 in Baltimore, Maryland. Tentative courses are also planned for Raleigh, NC in May, Chicago, IL in June, and Columbia, SC in September. For more information contact Pat Bradley on (202) 260-6963.

### NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course

Permits Division personnel conducted the NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course in Honolulu, Hawaii on January 12-16. This was the first of a series of five courses that will be co-sponsored by the Department of the Navy in 1998. Other course locations planned for this month are:

**Jacksonville, FL - March 23-27, 1998**

Later this year the course will be held in:

Portsmouth, NH - May 11-15, 1998  
Austin, TX - July 27-31, 1998  
Seattle, WA - September 21-25, 1998

The training course lasts 5 days and there is no fee for attending. If you think you might be interested in attending the NPDES Training Course and would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive the course announcements, please call Betty Peterson at (703) 917-8240. If you

have any questions regarding the course, contact Daniel Weese at (202)260-6809 or by email at weese.daniel@epamail.epa.gov.

### PARTICIPATION ON THE INTERAGENCY ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)WORK GROUP

Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) staff continue to participate in the Office of Water's effort to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to better coordinate water program activities with ESA requirements. The interagency work group is meeting on a weekly basis. A final MOA is expected sometime this spring. For more information, contact Jim Pendergast on (202) 260-9545 or Tom Charlton on (202) 260-6960.

### Regulations at Work

#### NPDES Permit Application Requirements for POTWs and other Treatment Works Treating Domestic Sewage (TWTDS)

We are currently working to finalize changes to the municipal and sludge application requirements and forms (2A/2S) which were proposed December 1995 (60 FR 62546). This rule will include two sets of application requirements and corresponding permit application forms, together with instructions for each. Section 122.21(j) contains application requirements pertaining to wastewater treatment and discharge at POTWs. The requirements are also included on Form 2A which replaces Standard Form A and Short Form A. Section 122.21(q) contains application requirements pertaining to generation,

treatment, and disposal of sewage sludge (biosolids) at POTWs and other TWTDS. TWTDS include facilities that generate sewage sludge, provide commercial treatment of sewage sludge, manufacture a product derived from sewage sludge, or provide disposal of sewage sludge. These requirements are also included on Form 2S which replaces the Interim Sewage Sludge Permit Application Form. For more information contact Robin Danesi on (202) 260-2991.

### Procedures for Modifying Approved POTW Pretreatment Programs-Final

On July 17, 1997, a final rule to simplify the procedures for modifying POTW pretreatment programs was published in the Federal Register (62 FR 38405-38415). Fewer types of modifications are considered "substantial" and automatically subject to detailed public notice procedures. Substantial modifications may now also be approved following a single public notice if no comments are received in response to the notice. The time period for POTWs to submit non-substantial program modifications prior to implementation is extended from 30 to 45 days. Approval Authorities are required to approve or disapprove the proposed modifications within 45 days rather than the previously allowed 90 days. Revisions were made to 403.9, 403.11, 403.12, and 403.18. For more information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

### General Pretreatment Program Requirements-Proposal

EPA is considering several changes to streamline the pretreatment program, reducing the current burden to POTWs and industrial users, including: exclusions or variable requirements for smaller facilities that contribute

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insignificant amount of pollutants; clarification of requirements for implementing pretreatment standards; and more flexible reporting, inspection and sampling requirements. OWM developed draft preamble and regulatory language (May 30, 1997) for 13 specific technical issues that are the main focus of the rulemaking. This draft was mailed to over 130 outside stakeholders in June 1997, and received comments from 78 commenters. OWM staff are reviewing the comments and expect to issue a final notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in June 1998. For more information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

### STEAM ELECTRIC RELATED WORK

#### Cooling Water Intake Structures (316(b) rulemaking)

Deborah Nagle met with the Utility Water Act Group on 10 March to discuss status and schedule of rule (information meeting). Deborah Nagle and Lynne Tudor (project economist) met with the Electric Power Supply Association and one association member to discuss the detailed industry questionnaire which was public noticed in February. We agreed to meet with the Electric Power Supply Association again on April 1st to discuss in detail their comments to the questionnaire. We understand that most of their concerns lie with the economic and financial questions.

The 316(b) workgroup continues to evaluate and revise the draft screener questionnaire in light of comments received during the public comment period (the public comment period ended on November 17, 1997). The workgroup is also preparing the information collection request (ICR)

scheduled to be submitted to OMB in March 1998. For more information contact Deborah Nagle on (202) 260-2656.

### Water Conservation Plan Guidelines

The Office of Wastewater Management met with the Water Conservation Plan Guidelines Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee last month to discuss the preliminary draft of the water conservation plan guidelines for public water systems. EPA is required to publish guidelines by August 6, 1998 and States have the option of requiring a water conservation plan as a condition of receiving a loan under a State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program, in accordance with Section 1455 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA expects to publish draft guidelines for comment in the *Federal Register* in late April. For more information, contact John Flowers on (202) 260-7288.

#### NPDES Round II Streamlining

The Permits Division NPDES Round II streamlining team has submitted a second draft of the final regulation preamble language for internal review. This streamlining effort has the greatest impact in eliminating evidentiary hearings, expansion and flexibility in the use of general permits, and allows for monitoring waivers (if the discharger can certify that guideline listed pollutants are not part of the effluent). A draft of the final regulation for review by other EPA concerned parties is expected to follow after approval. At that time, the team will work with these offices to address their concerns about the rule. Additionally, the NPDES Round II streamlining team has developed a communication strategy for the release of the final regulation. This is also

currently under internal review. For more information contact Howard Rubin on (202) 260-2051.

### Form 2C Industrial Permit Application

On March 16, the Form 2C Industrial Permit Application web site went online. It can be found under the EPA's Office of Wastewater Management web site. This new site provides background information as well as the latest update on the rule revision process. There is also a link provided to access the Form 2C Fact Sheet for additional information and a tentative schedule of next steps. All are invited to access this site at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/pdprog.htm>. Come on in and browse around and let us know what you think. For more information contact Greg Gwaltney at (202) 260-9532.

### Modification of the NPDES Multi-Sector Storm Water General Permit (MSGP)

Headquarters staff and Regional Storm Water Coordinators have completed the first draft of the response to comments received on the proposed modifications to the MSGP. Once the summary of response to comments is finalized, changes will be completed to the permit and fact sheet and both will be distributed to the Regional Offices for signature. EPA initiated internal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service on February 9, 1998 on the modification to the MSGP; preview discussions over the past few weeks with representatives of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have been positive and indicate that only revisions to the county list of endangered and threatened species will

be necessary to complete consultation.

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For more information contact Bryan Rittenhouse on (202) 260-9592.

### Construction General Permit

EPA Regions 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 have reissued the general permit (replacing the Baseline Construction General Permit issued by EPA in September 1992) which authorizes the discharge of storm water from construction activity disturbing five or more acres. This permit may also be used on a site-by-site basis for storm water discharges from construction activity disturbing less than five acres (referred to as Phase II storm water sources) when required by the Agency. It will not affect areas where states are the permitting authorities. The general permit provides EPA with an effective mechanism to regulate discharges from tens of thousands of construction sites, protecting and improving surface water quality across the nation. The permit was published in the Federal Register on 17 Feb (63 FR 7858) and is available at this time on the Internet at: "<http://www.epa.gov/owm/cgp.htm>." The most significant changes include different requirements dealing with endangered and threatened species and critical habitats, plus requirements to post the confirmation of permit coverage including a brief description of the project at the project site. An informational mass mailing to interested groups and Indian Tribes will be conducted in the areas covered by the permit. Included in the mailing will be the permit application form, the "notice of intent" (NOI), which will soon be conditionally approved by the Office of Management and Budget and published in the Federal Register. An accessible and indexed record of the public comments and Agency responses has been completed and can be reviewed at the OW Docket. The general public can get additional information by calling the appropriate Regional office; those individuals in

Region 2 can call 1-800-245-6510. Regions 4 and 6 are issuing their own versions of the CGP and will be published in the Federal Register soon. For more information, contact Brian Rittenhouse on (202) 260-0592.

## State/Region Specific

### Regional Pretreatment Coordinators

Region 2 is planning a pretreatment coordinators workshop in July 1998, in New York State (location is not yet final). Passaic Valley, NJ's Effluent Trading Pilot Project has matched sellers and buyers of effluent loadings. New Jersey has adopted new rules, including specific penalties against non-implementing programs. NJWEA Conference is scheduled for May 6, 1998, in Atlantic City: "Industry/Regulatory Partnership in a Climate of Change". Contact: Virginia Wong at (212) 637-4241.

Region 3 has collected 1994-96 POTW influent and effluent data to support a pilot project showing the effective-ness of the pretreatment program. Earlier data are now being compiled. EPA, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators' Association are cosponsoring training in Myerstown, PA on Apr. 22-23, 1998 on: Pollution Prevention, Enforcement, laboratory QA/QC, using the Internet. Contact: John Lovell at (215) 566-5790.

Region 4 States Conference is scheduled for April 13-15, 1998, in Gatlinburg, TN. Contact: Dave Olson at (404) 562-9756.

Region 5 hopes to delegate Illinois and Indiana State Pretreatment programs in 1998. A Removal Credit authorization was approved for Sauget,

IL, in 1997. The Region is working on a multi-media and pollution prevention approach to eliminate Mercury output within the Great Lakes program. A Regional pretreatment home page is coming soon! Contact: Matt Gluckman at (312) 886-6089.

Region 6 is currently working to authorize Texas's NPDES and Pretreatment program. The Region modified the pretreatment audit checklist to include Pollution Prevention questions, for use as both a teaching tool and to provide guidance to POTWs. Enforcement activities are now evolving from direct implementation to oversight. The Region also is piloting an electronic reporting project. The 15th Annual Regional Seminar (1997) had 325 participants; 1998's Workshop will be in Ft. Worth, Texas, in early August. For more information, contact Lee Bohme at (214) 665-7532.

Region 7 is cosponsoring with Region 8 a Pretreatment Work-shop in Colorado Springs with Region 8 on April 15-17, 1998. The Region approved a modified audit/PCI form that is being used in some of its states. Contact: Paul Marshall at (913) 551-7419.

With local and State governments, Region 8 is conducting a Hauled Waste Study. Contact: Curt McCormick at (303) 312-6377.

### Tribal News

### Financial and Technical Assistance

Mike Cook and representatives from AIEO and OGWDW meet with the Deputy Administrator, Rural Development Administration, USDA on March 12, 1998, to discuss potential cooperative efforts for Indian tribes.

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Specifically, RDA is interested in having its state and field offices work more closely with EPA's regional offices to extend its financial and technical assistance services to address tribal water and wastewater needs. In FY 1998, RDA has approximately \$20 million available in loan and grant funds for tribal use through its Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants Program. However, RDA is restricted by law from issuing a grant independent of a loan. In addition, RDA has a Training Assistance and Training Grants Program. This year, \$15 million was made available to eligible private nonprofit organizations through this program to provide water and wastewater training and assistance.

OWM identified a number of cooperative efforts it would like to undertake with RDA including: joint funding of tribal wastewater construction projects, participation in each others training and workshop sessions, the exchange and dissemination of relevant outreach materials, and sharing of training curricula through EPA's grant funded National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities. For more information on RDA's programs, you may contact them at (202) 720-9619 or through the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water>. For more information on EPA's programs, contact Sylvia Bell (202) 260-7255.

### Grants for Wastewater Treatment Systems

OWM is stepping up its efforts to increase tribal awareness of and access to assistance grants for the construction of wastewater systems under the Clean Water Act Indian Set-Aside (ISA) Grant Program. Several outreach tools have been developed and disseminated to the Regions for use at regional meetings, conferences, workshops and

other events with tribes to further communicate the goals of the ISA program. They include: a three-panel brochure that discusses the purpose of the ISA program, administration of the program with the Indian Health Service (IHS), use of IHS's data system for project identification, and points of contact for further information; a booklet that provides answers to frequently asked questions about the ISA program. It provides information on the grant application process, program regulations and requirements, project eligibilities as well as contacts for technical assistance; a resource guide that highlights 10 Federal programs that help state, tribal, and local officials identify possible funding sources for the construction of wastewater systems.

Copies of these documents can be obtained by calling (202) 260-7786. Additionally, they will soon be available through the Internet at OWM's home page at "<http://www.epa.gov/owm>." For more information, contact Sylvia Bell (202) 260-7255.

## Other Initiatives

### National Small Flows Clearinghouse

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse serves as the national collection and distribution center for information on small community wastewater systems and innovative/alternative technology. Funded by EPA, the Clearinghouse is based at West Virginia University in Morgantown.

**Enhancement of Services:** The Clearinghouse has recently upgraded its services by increasing the capabilities of its home page on the World Wide Web. Some of the

features which have been added recently include: (1.) a user-friendly online discussion forum to discuss wastewater issues of interest to small communities and rural homeowners; (2.) An online "poster" which allows the visitor to "click" on small community topics of interest and access downloadable documents on each topic; (3.) a compilation of data on onsite wastewater system regulations at the local level, including number of failing systems, system siting requirements, and number of systems approved in 1993. The Clearinghouse home page can be found at [www.nsfcl.wvu.edu](http://www.nsfcl.wvu.edu). Call Steve Hogye at 260-5841 for more information.

### Section 106 Allocation Formula Work Group

The objective of the Section 106 Formula Work Group is to revise the Section 106 Grant Program allocation formula to bring it up-to-date, and make it more reflective of current State water quality programs. At an initial meeting, February 25-26, the Work Group developed a set of guiding principles to follow for revising the formula:

formula should reflect what and where the water quality problems are;

formula should reflect programmatically where the work needs to be done - sufficient funding for a core program;

avoid disruption of State programs -phase-ins to be agreed upon in advance;

data sources should be of high quality, consistent, and accessible;

remove disincentives for States that do a good job;



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formula must be easily, clearly articulated.

The Work Group identified five broad categories of variables that it believes best address the goals, objectives, and workload of the Section 106 Grant Program: 1) water quality resource base; 2) impairment/threat; 3) source management; 4) workload; 5) other. For each category, it identified a number of variables, data sources, and criteria for evaluating data sources. The Work Group also discussed using possible adjustment factors (floors, ceilings, and phase-ins) to "smooth out" variables to prevent extremes from driving the allocation. In discussions regarding Section 106 set-asides, there was general overall support for continuing a set-aside for interstates; but there was mixed reaction from States on the retention of a separate set-aside for ground water. The Office of Wastewater Management's contractor will prepare and submit for the Work Group's consideration, prior the next scheduled meeting, April 22-23, a report evaluating the identified data sources; alternative data sources; and possible surrogates. For more information, contact Carol Crow on (202) 260-6742.

### **HARDSHIP GRANT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES: STATUS**

The first Hardship Grant Program for Rural Communities deadline has passed. All states and territories submitted a Notice of Intent to participate in the Hardship Grants program by the March 20, 1998 deadline.

Wyoming and South Dakota are planning to fund Tribal Communities with their Hardship Grant allotment. South Dakota will fund the community of Ridgeview. They are currently served with failing septic tanks and are planning to use the grant to build a

collection system and link to a nearby treatment plant. Wyoming will fund an area near the Ft. Washakie treatment plant, also replacing failing septs with a collection system. Both projects will receive additional funding assistance from the Indian Health Service. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck on (202)260-9762.

### **WHAT'S COMING...**

Check out our Internet site:  
<http://www.epa.gov/owm>.

We are constantly improving the OWM web site. We have incorporated an index in the NPDES program area to include many of the OWM web pages that had previously been more difficult to find. For more information, contact Keeley Walls on (202) 260-5679.